

I was an army nurse from July of '98 to April of 1900, and in all have done over six years of government work, yet I hesitate to offer my services to the War Department, not knowing whether they would be considered worthy of acceptance. Is it not possible that many others may feel somewhat the same?

ANNA R. TURNER,
Ancon Hospital, Panama.

DEAR EDITOR: A few of the methods I have adopted in obstetrical nursing may be of help to "Yearling" in solving the problems mentioned in the March number. When engaging for a case a list of supplies is given the patient including gauze, cotton and old squares of linen or soft cotton for use inside of diapers. I explain that the vulva pads of gauze and cotton and the squares containing the worst of the soil are burned, thereby saving much laundry. I myself rinse out the wet diapers for use the second time (never more), and place the soiled ones in cold water in the laundry for the maid to wash. I only wash the baby's flannels when I see that they are being ruined.

Usually the baby can take its airing in a basket or cab on the porch. I would not consider it bad form, however, to wheel the baby on the street, but I do consider it the worst of bad form for a nurse to wear her uniform on the street under any circumstances.

When it is possible, if the nurse will spend a half day with a prospective patient, making the pads herself, she can explain the method she pursues. When I have done this I have been repaid by having everything ready at the time of confinement, and invariably the patient has instructed her servants what to expect. Some nurses do not consider it their duty to wash and sterilize the bottles where they are used for the baby. Others do not carry or prepare the patient's tray. To me these things are more strictly the nurse's work than doing the laundry. I cannot say that these are the rules of this locality, as I find that nurses follow their own ideas and individual tastes in settling problems for themselves.

L. B..
Des Moines, Iowa.

DEAR EDITOR: The managers of quack training-schools for nurses, correspondence schools, short-term schools and the like, where nursing pretends to be taught without patients, by dint of hearing a few lectures and attending a few classes, are adopting a most shameless and hypocritical method of advertising themselves and of protecting themselves

from public criticism. Understanding well the readiness with which numbers of well-meaning but sentimental people allow themselves to be taken in by pious frauds and by asseverations of religious purpose, the quack nursing-school is now blatantly cried over the country as founded on religion and a love of humanity, and as working solely from a religious impulse. The cant, amounting to plain blasphemy, and fulsome pretentiousness and unctuousness with which the circulars and reports of these schools are filled, is disgusting to a refined mind and odious to those who abhor seeing the mantle of true religion used to cloak the most fraudulent and self-seeking purposes.

There is too little genuine, self-forgetting, unostentatious religion to-day, and too much of the loud declamatory type. The mode of advertising of the fraudulent nursing-school is precisely that of the patent-medicine fraud. It is a canny scheme, because many will be intimidated by it and will hesitate to oppose what wears the tag of religion, fearing to be shrieked at as irreligious or as hostile to the works of religion.

JUSTICE.

DEAR EDITOR: I have wanted to send thanks to the JOURNAL many times for ideas and helps found within its pages, but one thing especially has been of great benefit to me. That is Miss Ruth Sherman's "Method of Sterilizing in a Private House," and I want her to know that several others have thanked her in their hearts for so carefully explaining how to arrange the cheese-cloth around the boiler, so that there is no chance of the bundles to be steamed falling into the water.

Until I made a hanunock after her pattern I had had many a slip into the water of parcels to be steamed—sterilized. I gathered the cheese-cloth at the handles, and fastened it with safety-pins, but I always held my breath (while some one else held the opposite end of the cloth), and at intervals until the bundles were safely out of the uncertain sterilizer.

Now with this new device I feel as comfortable as if I were in a modern hospital sterilizing-room, and so do not need to plan time for possible mishaps. The JOURNAL is a great post-graduate assistance.

E. L. P., R.N.

DEAR EDITOR: Answering "Yearling," as a nurse of long standing, I made it my rule to wash my babies' diapers and flannels in all cases where there was no nursemaid or separate laundress. I knew then how they were washed—no soda or washing powders, and by the